

3-25-1860

Letter from Sarah Whitney, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1860 March 25

Sarah Whitney

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Whitney, Sarah and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Sarah Whitney, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1860 March 25" (1860). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 359.
https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/359

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact ir@wellesley.edu.

have been in vain.

Monday noon - a lovely sun to silence
all croaking - I have just returned from
a walk to the village, when Mr. Ingraham
made anxious inquiries after Ty. & Ed.

My rejoice in the cessation of the wind
& probably am no worse than before it began
to blow. In the quiet, I think they will grow stron-

ger. Yesterday while writing at the same table
with Carrie, she sent this message - "Give
my love to Annie & tell her, I sh^d like to
have her occupy my library chamber for a
studio as long as she finds it convenient or
till she can superintend the building of
a more suitable one." The fast coming tears
at this sudden flashing of my hope presen-
ted at that time the utterance of the message,
but to day's consideration (or sunshine
perhaps) makes me more hopeful that you
will accept the offer & find the room as
favorable for work as the Phil's or Br's one.
I see then are grave obstacles to my plan.
E has not yet given my impetuosity, but moves
slowly in every thing concerning his place. Now
when I wd have a dozen men at least at
work on the land, he employs only two, & seems
to have formed no plan for its adornment,
excepting that he proposes to have a nursery
of forest trees, from wh to transplant as he
becomes certain where the right spot for each
tree & shrub is. The rest of us protest, but he
quotes Ch. Follen & other landscape gardeners.
I have no objection to the nursery but I want
a wise & tasteful purpose now, & the speedi-
est furtherance of it, & don't believe any
thing is to be gained by what seems to me
so much loss of time. Well all I have to do

[1760]

Sunday Nick 25th 68.

I will not my dear Annie yet give
up the hope that Carrie in her last let-
ter gave you some reliable expectation
of the fulfilment of yr desire for a studio.
Last Sunday when I asked Edward what sh^d
be done for you, he said "I think she had
better take one of the unoccupied rooms in
the house" - "but" said I "there is none
with a proper light." "Well," he said "the
Porch can put up one". Then I proposed
if it were to be on his premises that it
might be made ornamental in the way
I suggested to you, & nothing more was said
then or since, as I preferred to leave the
matter to his own discretion. I know that
the carrying out of my idea wd be expensive
& perhaps not consequent to itself. The spot
as it seems to me most desirable for a garden
is a comparatively clear piece of land, some
little distance east of the barn. On the highest
spot, I wd place yr temple & cover it with roses
& honeysuckles, & surround it with all beau-
tiful & useful shrubs & plants. That is one
of my "Spanish castles" - Another, is a house
on the other side of the lot in wh we all
might live, with a studio under the same roof.
When my advice is asked I will put on
paper the plan wh I see in my waking dreams.
Till then I shall try to be silent, knowing that
Edw. in the finishing & furnishing the house already

begin & getting the land into a decent
respectability has enough to perplex him.
Miss "help" vexations sink into indignance
beside the one who now threatens them is the
departure of their good faithful Henry. He
is a "Yankee" & desires to better his condition
not by increased wages where he is, but
by some other pursuit. Probably some feeling
of degradation is experienced in the separa-
tion of parlor & kitchen society. His com-
panions in the neighborhood eat with
their employers & though he makes no complaint,
& has always been perfectly pleasant & has grown
more courteous in his manners, it wd not be
strange if his position shd be a little annoying.
I hope dearest, you will not judge me ungrateful
or unkind in my silence respecting the studio.
I do long for this furtherance of yr artistic
plans more than for any thing else, but E.
has done & is doing so much for us, I cannot
press upon him all my wants. Never was
there a more devoted friend than he has
always been to us, but anew have I been made
to feel it in these long weeks of my invalidism.
Scarcely a week of wings in my 9 weeks of sick
eyes has there been, in wh he has failed to come
up to read to me. Neither business or storm
has ever prevented. Last night when the
clock struck 9 I came him up - knowing
that his business kept him late, I felt
that the howling N.E. wind was sufficient
excuse for his wearied limbs to seek rest rather
than added fatigue - but as soon as he
his visitor departed, than he & E started
upon their mission of love, bringing with them
in letter, the whole of wh. I did not read
to them - trusting as I have said before, that
some word had gone to you in E's letter.

Fortune has abundantly favored you
thus far - I think she will still further,
but if otherwise, Disappointment has
shaded persons if we will, but learn them
right. Not what we wish, but what we want.
Providence! I am sad for her, & glad too
that the parting hour is past. In new labor
amid new scenes I am sure she will find
solace. I am rejoiced that she is to be
near you - trusting that where one lacks, the
other will abound, & thus the necessities of
each may be ministered unto.

I could marry J. on Fri. in the midst of Spring
cleaning & the labor throes pertaining - but judged
from what she said, that conscience inclination
wd soon be in harmony & that a letter to you
wd be the consequence. Yesterday after breakfast
father at Mrs. Thacker's showing him the lions
she took him to the theatre to see horses that
folk & walk upright & "innumerable wonder-
ful things & riders who perform impossibilities."
Our visit to Jamaica Plain will be postponed
to better weather - the present being awful.
Another trial threatens the doomed family in
April - I pray (& in faith) that it may be the
last.

Went Sarah as far as I know "is flourishing
in ease & health" - her family still. Aunt
Abby has placed herself under Dr. Williams's
care having become miserable through the
entire closing of one tear passage & the
partial closing of the other. I trust she
will be relieved without undergoing the
old fashioned prolonged treatment
for this disease. I have not heard from
Aunt Lizzie for a week: If the two Aunts
get cured of their tedious ailing through
my calamity, my sorrow will not have

is to make a personal application of
my own preaching & believe that the
greater good will come by & by - perhaps
material as well as spiritual.

Regarding summer clothes, I find nothing
but the buff muslin, spotted & somewhat
faded & that old pink skirt & a dotted white
waist. I will send them & the bonnet & the India
rubber cloth when you say the word. I suppose
the leghorn ~~is~~ wears the ~~coarse~~ fashion in size
^{than ~~deeper~~} ~~it~~ was last ~~season~~ - whether it is in
form, I doubt. I think yr. shawl or the trim-
ming must be somewhat dilapidated. Con-
sult Fidelity about yr. wants in the clothing
line if you don't know yr. self & command
my help in all feasible ways, of wh. sewing,
for the present, is not one.

Have you read Miss Prescott's stories? Under
Gods in the Atlantic & Sir Robert's Ghost? Ac-
cording to M. Porter she has walked to find
herself Samos. Mrs. Dale too is getting
a good deal of praise for her "Woman's
right to labor," & has rec'd. one or two
hundred dollars (I forget wh.) from the
fund left by Mr. Hoovey to help on the Woman
Cause. Is it a long leap from Mrs.
D. to the Barrages? I have not seen them
for months & in a few weeks they are
to be moved with their own consent to
the Newton Almshouse. I hope to see
them before they go.

Dr. Hoosmer's disease is not paralysis
but hemorrhage of or on the brain.
He has so far recovered as to be conscious

of his situation & agrees with the Doc
that he cannot recover - His great
desire is to live long enough to see Fattie.
Ellen Robbins saw him yesterday at her
own request, but the poor man was over-
come by the thought of Fattie as associated
with her. Ellen has come over to spend
a few days with Carrie - She sends kind
remembrance -

Oh! I shall find the moving shorty I must
venture a loving good night. I wanted
to send a word to Fie, but the day light did
not afford the leisure. Much love to her & you.

Be ever loving Sarah.

Ms Anne Whitney
Care of J. P. Leslie Esq.
411 Wetherill St.
Philadelphia.

